



NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
MARCH-APRIL 2021

2021 NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CONFERENCE – ONE DAY / DELEGATE ONLY

Our 2021 Northern Ohio District Conference will be held as a one-day, **delegate only** event at the Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren on August 14th. This will allow for social distancing as part of the COVID-19 precautions that will be in place for those that gather. Each congregation is encouraged to send 2 delegates (churches with membership of 200+ should send 3 delegates).

While there will be no insight sessions, display area, or peace auction on site – the day will open and close with worship. Brad Kelley, Moderator, will speak at the opening worship at 9 am and Tom Zuercher will be the speaker for closing worship at 2:30 pm. The worship services and business sessions will be live streamed so that non-delegates can participate in this day.

On-line registration begins April 1st. The registration fee is \$40 which includes all materials, lunch, and snacks through the day. Lodging is available at Comfort Inn and Suites in Hartville by calling (330) 587-4347 and identifying as being part of the Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren.

*There will be no Pre-Conference workshop prior to District Conference this summer. Instead, the scheduled speakers will present at our Pastor's Workshops in the spring (Tom Zuercher) and the fall (Jeff Bach). More details on these events to follow. Visit www.nohcob.org/dc

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District Conference Focusing on



of His Church and for His Church
Matthew 16:18 & Matthew 28:18-20

Akron Springfield CoB
August 14th, 2021

Continuing Education Opportunities

A special two-part **MODERATOR'S TOWN HALL** has been announced for April, with an array of Brethren historians as resource people on the topic "Today's Headlines, Yesterday's Wisdom: Historical Insights for the Contemporary Church." Featured Brethren historians include Carl Bowman, William Kostlevy, Stephen Longenecker, Carol Sheppard, and Dale Stoffer. The first event on April 15 from 7-8:15 p.m. (Eastern time) will be a 75-minute question and answer format in line with previous Moderator's Town Halls. The second event on April 17 from 1-6 p.m. (Eastern time) will be an extended session featuring presentations from each historian. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2021/two-part-moderators-town-hall

The LOMBARD MENNONITE PEACE CENTER has many upcoming events:

Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders, May 3-7, \$750

Leadership and Anxiety in the Church, May 13, \$109

Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches, April 10, \$99

Healthy Congregations, April 17, \$99

Groups of four or more receive a discount of \$15 per person, provided they register all together with full payment at least two weeks in advance of the event. Additional dates are available for all 4 events. Scholarships are available from the District Office. Find out more about the events at www.LMPeaceCenter.org

DOING CHURCH DIFFERENTLY

How can pastors lead and assist congregations to adapt in the midst of corporate/community crises, helping them to maintain organizational integrity, pastoral viability, and foster spiritual growth?

The Brethren Academy is honored to offer this new course, Doing Church Differently, that seeks to equip clergy for circumstances in which they have, in the past, had to learn "on the fly". It will help them prepare to lead in the midst of corporate/community crises (natural disasters, active shooter incidents, pandemics, climate crises, etc.). Registration is open until March 31, 2021. Brochure link:

<https://bethanyseminary.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Doing-Church-Differently-Brochure.pdf>

THE REWARD OF RISK - A VIRTUAL NEW AND RENEW EVENT - MAY 13-15, 2021

Registration is open for "The Reward of Risk", a virtual conference for Church Planting and Church Renewal (NEW AND RENEW), sponsored by Discipleship Ministries of the Church of the Brethren. This online event will provide a space to explore new forms of mission, church planting, church renewal and shaping community. The website link for all things related to the 2021 NEW AND RENEW EVENT including registration for the conference and updates is <https://www.brethren.org/discipleshipmin/newandrenew/>. Registration is \$79 – **scholarships are available through the District Office.**

VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT ON WELLBEING - APRIL 19-22, 2021

A Virtual Leadership Summit on Wellbeing for clergy and other church leaders is being planned by Church of the Brethren staff for April 19-22, 2021.

Pre-recorded sessions by presenters on five aspects of wellbeing will be available for viewing in preparation for participating in Q&A sessions with the presenters during the week. Speakers will address themes including family/relational, physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial wellbeing. See the schedule.

CEUs will be available through the Brethren Academy upon registration for the event. Contact Stan Dueck at sdueck@brethren.org or 847-429-4343 or visit <https://www.brethren.org/leadership-wellbeing/> for more information.

COMPELLING VISION BIBLE STUDY SERIES

The Compelling Vision Team is developing a 13-session Bible study series around the Compelling Vision. designed for use by youth and adults, the series is available at no cost on the Compelling Vision webpage.

Recognizing the importance of discerning the mind of Christ through communal study of scripture, it is our hope that this Bible study series will serve a two-fold purpose: to help congregations engage more deeply with the Jesus in the Neighborhood vision and to help congregations and their delegates prepare for the conversations to take place at Annual Conference as we move toward affirmation of the vision.

More information is available at <https://www.brethren.org/news/2020/themes-and-writers-compelling-vision-bible-studies/>

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Bristolville – Search Committee appointed. Church leadership arranging pulpit supply.

Lakewood – Congregational call vote May 16th. *Gene Wyse* serving as interim.

New Philadelphia – Congregational call vote scheduled for April 25th. *David Hobbs* serving as interim.

Painesville – Search Committee being formed. *John Ballinger* serving as transitional pastor.

Congregations that have completed the search process:

Ashland First – *Brian Layman* called as Pastor beginning April 15.

Reading – *Paul Bozman* called as Pastor beginning April 18.

Congregations that have not yet begun the Search Process or have chosen not to seek at this time:

Akron Eastwood – *Cindy Peel* serving as interim.

Jonah's People – *Jerry Copeland* serving as interim pastor.

Mansfield First – *Tom Michaels* serving as transitional pastor.

District Events Calendar

- 3.29 District Youth Game Night
- 4.2 Office Closed—Good Friday
- 4.5 District Youth Game Night
- 4.7 Western Area Clergy/Pastor's Luncheon
- 4.12 District Youth Game Night
- 4.13 Eastern Area Clergy/Pastor's Luncheon
- 4.13 Executive Committee Meeting
- 4.14 Central Area Clergy/Pastor's Breakfast
- 4.17 BBI Class—Introduction to Pastoral Care
- 4.19 District Youth Game Night
- 4.26 District Youth Game Night

District Prayer Calendar

April

Churches/Pastors

Bristolville, Pulpit Supply

Brook Park, Chibuzo Petty

Center, Mark Kell

Chippewa, Bill Eley

District Leadership

Central Committee – Brad Kelley, Moderator

Other Districts

Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest

National Leadership

Dave Sollenberger, Moderator elect

Church of the Brethren in Haiti

May

Churches/Pastors

County Line, Chris Ewing

Defiance, Gene Yenser

Dupont, Steve Heilshorn

East Chippewa, Brad Kelley

District Leadership

Ministerial Commission - Paul Bartholomew, Chair

Other Districts

Missouri/Arkansas, Southeastern

National Leadership

Bill Scheurer, OEP

Church of the Brethren in Spain

Visit www.nohcob.org/prayer for a complete copy of our 2021 District Prayer Calendar.

How to Report 2020 Congregational Statistics

Denominational forms for reporting your churches information should have arrived. Reporting attendance for 2020 will be a most unusual challenge. The YearBook office is asking congregations to report average attendance before services were disrupted by COVID-19.

We encourage you to please complete your forms when they arrive. This information is helpful to the district as well as the denomination.

Registration Information from the Annual Conference Office

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference is open. The delegate registration fee is \$305 per delegate. Churches up to 200 members should register one delegate, 201-400 members can register two delegates.

Please note: Unique to this year's ONLINE Annual Conference, each delegate **MUST HAVE THEIR OWN PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS, A COMPUTER OR TABLET, AS WELL AS ADEQUATE WIFI SERVICE IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE.** Please ensure that your selected delegate meets these requirements to participate so that your congregation can be fully represented at Annual Conference.*

One online site will be used for all business, insight sessions, networking groups, concerts, Bible studies and more. A link and password for access to the site will be emailed to each registrant in the days prior to the start of Conference. Training sessions will be provided in the weeks before Conference begins for those wanting to learn how to navigate the site.

Non-Delegate registration will be \$99 and will provide access to all the events listed above. The charge is necessary to help cover all the costs of hosting a virtual event.

All five worship services will be available free of charge to all registered and non-registered persons.

Please check out the webpage at www.brethren.org/ac2021 for more information about Annual Conference, including leadership, themes, schedule, concerts and much more. New information is added regularly so check back often.

*In Northern Ohio we are exploring the possibility of having several churches serve as "technology hubs" to provide access to the technology needed to participate in this year's Annual Conference. More details to follow!

NATIONAL YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE 2021: UNFOLDING GRACE

May 28-31, 2021 Virtual Event

National Young Adult Conference (NYAC) offers people ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic young adults!

Registration is now open. The registration fee is \$75. See more information at <https://www.brethren.org/vya/vac/>

District Office Hours, March 29—April 2

Please note that the Northern Ohio District Office hours will vary next week. Julie Watson will be on vacation beginning March 26 through April 2. Jenny Imhoff will be covering for Julie on Monday, March 29. Kris Hawk will be in the office Tuesday, March 27 through April 1. Kris may need to leave the office for appointments during business hours, so please call/text before visiting the office. Kris's cell number is 330-612-2086. The office will be closed on Good Friday, April 2. Thank you!

